

replace it with a known operational meter, and transport the questionable meter back to a laboratory for testing.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. After a telephone conversation with the Examiner on February 21, 2001, an understanding as to the primary use of the present invention was established. Defects in accuracy or calibration of a meter are not determined by the present invention. The present invention determines whether a meter in situ will operate; that is, whether the disc of the meter will turn when a load is connected to the terminals of the meter. The present invention, when connected to the meter being tested and turned on, provides a momentary load sufficient to cause the disc of the meter being tested to turn if the meter is operable. The present invention is meant to be used by utility workers in the field to test a meter which has a disc that is not rotating upon first examination. To ascertain that the meter actually is operational, the field worker connects the present invention to the terminals of the meter (see Application, page 2, lines 30-35 and page 5, lines 9-11) with either clips or probes and flips a switch on the present invention causing the application of a momentary load on the meter. The momentary load is caused by the relatively high resistance of the dry water heater element (see element 62 of FIG. 3) in the circuit of the present invention. If the meter is operational, the load applied will cause the disc to rotate. If the meter is not operational, the load has no effect on the disc. To be certain that a load is applied by the present invention, a light on the present invention glows when the circuit is completed or closed. An electric utility field worker with ordinary skill in the art would easily understand the method of use of the present invention after reading the disclosure of the application.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. A resistance is generated when the present invention is connected to the terminals of the meter and the switch on the present invention is turned on thereby closing or completing the circuit of the present invention and allowing the relatively high resistance of the dry water heater element to cause movement of the eddy current disc of the meter to turn. The turning of the eddy current disc is the notice of resistance generation.

Claims 1-3 and 6-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Park. The Park device is intended to be used by a householder to conduct a variety of simple diagnostic tests on electrical apparatus within and around a home and automobile. A householder would not be able to test the electric meter at his home with the Park device. A householder would be unable to test the meter with any device in the manner of the present invention because a householder is not allowed to tamper with the meter housing in order to make available the terminals of the meter. Only a utility field worker may use the present invention because only a utility company employee has authority to break the seal on the meter in order to access the terminals of the meter.

The Park device has various terminals which exit the housing of that device in the form of sockets into which may be placed test leads (see Park, Col. 2, lines 35-40). In contrast, the

present invention has only two leads which must be placed on the terminals of the meter to be tested. Additionally, Park claims in its first claim "at least a first, second and third measuring terminal pairs;" whereas the present invention claims a "circuit comprising at least a pair of connection leads..." The Park device claims multiple terminal pairs in order to be functional, while the present invention needs only a pair of connection leads in order to function.

The Park device is intended as a multi-purpose tool for electronics enthusiasts to perform simple tests on various types of electrical components or units (see Park, Col. 1, lines 11-27). The Park device may be used to determine the presence of low DC voltage, AC voltage, and lower and higher resistance typically encountered in a household and automotive environment (see Park, Col. 2, lines 1-12).

The Park device has no leads and only a plurality of sockets into which various leads may be received. Because the Park device has no leads, it could not be used to test a meter in the manner of the present invention even if access to the terminals of the meter was possible. Therefore, the Park device is not relevant to the present invention.

Claims 12 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Davidson, et al. (Patent # 4,922,185). The Davidson device is a testing device for testing the connections of a meter. This device only test the connections and would be used to test that wiring had been done correctly. The Davidson, et al. device, like the Young, et al. device below, is designed to be inserted between the instrument to be tested and the support socket.

In contrast, the present invention does not require placement between the contacts of the meter to be tested and the socket into which the meter is inserted. The Davidson, et al. device is not relevant to the present invention.

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Young et al. (Patent # 2,249,075) discloses a test device for detachable electrical instruments which requires the test device be placed between the electrical instrument to be tested and a socket with contact jaws which are permanently wired to a circuit in which the instrument is to be employed. In order for the device of Young, et al. to work, the electrical instrument must be removed from the socket, interrupting service. The device must then be inserted so that its contact blades fit into the contact jaws of the socket. Then the instrument must be inserted so that its contact blades fit into the contact jaws of the device. Only then may electric service be resumed. The Young, et al. device has certain movably mounted contacts which may be adjusted for use with various socket arrangements. The Young, et al. device is intended for tests of long duration.

In contrast, the present invention does not interrupt service. The present invention does not require the removal of the meter from the socket. A test with the present invention takes only a moment to determine if the meter being tested will indicate an additional load by the rotation of the eddy current disc. The present invention is not at all similar to the Young, et al. device.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the invention defined by each of the claims in the application is patentable under §§ 102, 103 and 112. Accordingly,

reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims as now presented are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan R. Owen", written in a cursive style.

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